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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,800	05/28/2004	Randolph J. Sheffield	68.0477	3799

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EXAMINER

BOMAR, THOMAS S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 18 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities: there appears to be an unnecessary letter "c" at the end of the first line of claim 18; claim 25 lacks the required status identifier, i.e., (Original). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 7-16, and 20-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent application publication 2003/0000411 to Cernocky et al.

Regarding claims 1-3, 14-16, 27, 28, and 30, Cernocky et al disclose a method, system, and apparatus usable with a subterranean well, comprising: deploying a casing conveyed tool 18 in a subterranean well; disposing the casing conveyed tool 18 in the outer surface 12 of a casing 10 in the well so that the tool does not block the central passageway; communicating a wireless stimulus downhole in the well; and actuating the casing conveyed tool 18, which is a perforating gun, in response to the communication (see Figs. 1, 2, and 5; paragraphs 0025-0027 and 0050).

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Regarding claims 7-12, 20-25, and 29, the wireless signals comprises at least one of an acoustic wave, an electromagnetic wave, a seismic wave, and a fluid pressure pulse, wherein acoustic and seismic waves are known to be pressure pulses and fluid will inherently be located in the well or tubing (see paragraph 0048).

Regarding claims 13 and 26, the stimulus is encoded to indicate a command and the stimulus is decoded to extract the command (see claim 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-6, 17-19, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cernocky et al in view of US patent 6,584,406 to Harmon et al.

Cernocky et al teach the method, system, and apparatus for wirelessly operating the casing conveyed tool of claims 1, 14, and 27. However, it is not expressly taught that there is another wireless stimulus transmitted uphole to indicate that the gun has fired.

Harmon et al teach a method, system, and apparatus for wirelessly operating a perforating gun that further includes an additional wireless stimulus transmitted uphole to indicate that the gun has fired (see col. 3, lines 12-26). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Cernocky et al and Harmon et al before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method, system, and apparatus taught by Cernocky et al to include the

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wireless stimulus for indicating that the gun has fired of Harmon et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because the references address the narrow problem of wirelessly detonating perforating guns downhole, therefore a person seeking to solve that exact problem would consult the references and apply their teachings together.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 14, and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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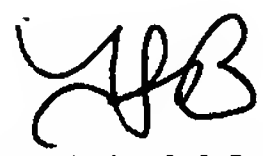
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shane Bomar whose telephone number is 571-272-7026. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30am to 4:00pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David J. Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

tsb 
August 24, 2006